Labour reforms in the country

78. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have chalked out any programme for labour reforms in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by when the labour reforms are likely to come into force?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Review/updation of labour laws, by way of labour reforms is a continuous process in order to bring them in tune with the emerging needs of the economy. Accordingly, amendments to the Payment of Wages Act, 1936 have been enforced w.e.f. 09.11.2005 and amendment proposals in respect of the Factories Act, 1948, the Labour Laws (Exemption from Furnishing Returns and Maintaining Registers by Certain Establishments) Act, 1988 and the Apprentices Act, 1961 have been introduced in the Parliament on 16.08.2005, 22.08.2005 and 19.05.2006 respectively.

Four tier organisational structure for employees P.F.O.

79. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a four tier organizational structure has been recommended for the Employees Provident Fund Organisations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is true that such structure will bring down the delay in settlement of P.F. claims; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Employees' Provident Fund Organisation had engaged Xavier Labour Relations Institute (XLRI), Jamshedpur for recommending "Organisational